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INFO RUCNISL/ISLAMIC COLLECTIVE

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STATE FOR NEA/ELA, AF/RSA AND AF/W

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/27/2016

TAGS: PREL PTER SY SG

SUBJECT: SENEGAL INVITES ASSAD TO VISIT AND RECEIVES  
INVITATION FOR WADE TO VISIT SYRIA

REF: STATE 197800

Classified By: CDA Robert P. Jackson for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Before the Embassy could deliver reftel demarche, we discovered that Senegalese Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs Cheikh Tidiane Gadio was en route to Damascus. On December 13, Gadio extended an invitation to Syrian President Assad to visit Senegal; Gadio in turn received an invitation for President Wade to visit Syria. Gadio's meetings reportedly focused on the Organization of the Islamic Conferences (OIC) and on Iraq, on which the two sides shared & identical views.<sup>8</sup>

¶2. (C) COMMENT: Syria has an Embassy in Dakar. For its part, Senegal is preparing to host the next OIC summit in March 2008. Given President Wade's frequent travels to OIC member countries, we cannot rule out a Wade visit to Syria before or after the Hajj. END COMMENT.

JACKSON